

# HERALD ВІСНИК

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## AUUC Celebrated in Vancouver

— Story photos: Scott Alpen, except as noted



AUUC Vancouver Branch celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians and the 90th anniversary of the Ukrainian Cultural Centre with a concert on June 8 and a banquet on June 10. The concert at the North Vancouver Centennial Theatre, which opened with the greeting “My z Ukrainy”, confirmed the high calibre of AUUC performing arts in that city.

Shielded by towering mountains and many expensive travel miles, to most other Branches in Canada AUUC Vancouver Branch is an exotic secret. Attending the presentation *Celebration 100* at the North Vancouver Centennial Theatre on June 8, I learned some of what we are missing; it was a truly impressive show.

*My z Ukrainy* (We are from Ukraine) has become an almost obligatory opening number for significant concerts staged by the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians. This dance, choreographed by Pavlo Virsky and staged by Serguei Makarov, is an outstanding vehicle to quickly demonstrate Ukrainian culture, from the colourful and energetic dancing to the presentation of bread and salt in the traditional sign of a hospitable welcome.

It is also a telling barometer of the performing arts climate in the hosts. What this opening

number established this time was that the audience would be treated to an evening of high-quality entertainment by skilled, well-prepared and confident performers. It was a dazzling opening.

M.C. Libby Griffin made her first appearance after the opening number. In a clear, well-modulated voice, with images projected on a screen up stage, Ms. Griffin delivered a message which she herself had written. In concise terms rich in content, the M.C., through the evening, addressed themes ranging from AUUC history to the organization’s values to our continuing dedication to struggle for a better future.

Ms. Griffin also sang with the Barvinok Choir, and appeared in a trio with Aliya Griffin and Tetiana Zaruba in “*Lelechenky*” (Storks).

Space does not permit discussion of each of the 29 items (not counting the intermission) in the three-hour event; therefore, this review will speak of what caught my attention.

Because of its impact, I want to mention first the powerful beginning of the second half, which reflected the AUUC tradition of sending an anti-war message by performing the music reflecting the World War Two experience of the Soviet Union.

On this occasion, the duet of Helen Volkow and Dylan Lawry started by appearing in front of the curtain to perform “*Prysnlyos materi*” (A mother’s dream), accompanied by the Vancouver Folk Ensemble. In this song (words by O. Bolhalsuka, music by P. Protseka, arrangement by B. Dobrinsky), “a grieving mother dreams that her son has returned from the war and is with her again” (to quote the program notes). She wakes to



the harsh reality that her son will return no more.

The curtain goes up to reveal a tableau: the Dovbush Dancers in brown, military-style uniforms posing to form a war monument. A woman, carrying a bouquet, enters, and sits on the base of the monument. Music by M. Ivashchenko begins, and the monument comes to life in a dance choreographed by P. Virsky and staged by S. Makarov. The music ends, the dancers once again form the monument, the woman places the bouquet on the base and walks off. “*My pamyatayemo*” (We remember) shows energetic, confident young people, full of life, caught up in war, and turned into the material of a monument, their mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, sweethearts (who is that mourning woman?) left behind to grieve.

What a powerful anti-war message!

The message continued with a trio of songs by the Barvinok Choir, conducted by Beverly Dobrinsky and accompanied by the Vancouver Folk Ensemble. The first of the three songs, “Solidarity Forever”, contributed to the theme of AUUC social activism. The other two, “Strangest Dream” (words and music by Ed McCurdy) and “May There Always Be Sunshine” (Music by A. Ostrovsky, words by A. Oshanin) continued the peace theme. “May There Always  
(Continued on Page 6.)

## The Next Issue

The next issue of the “UCH” will be dated September, 2018. Announcements of events in September, or early October, 2018, as well as articles for the September, 2018, issue should be in our office by July/August. Thank you for your consideration.

## AUUC National Committee Meets

The National Committee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians met in Winnipeg on the weekend of May 26-27. It was an upbeat meeting, enthusiastically considering the many projects which lie ahead.

One of the main topics on the agenda was the Taras Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation. The National Committee considered matters related to the relocation of the Shevchenko Museum from its current location to the larger building which is the AUUC Cultural Centre. This is a major project anticipated to take about a year from the start of planning, through to the official opening. Many NC members had an opportunity to see the exciting presentation by the architect who has been hired for the work. A capable team is guiding the work in Toronto.

Exciting things are also projected for the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*. It is anticipated that the publication will be available online in the not too distant future.

The NC considered plans for performing arts seminars. For the first time in years, the AUUC will stage a national dance seminar in 2018. There are also plans for a choral seminar as well as an orchestral gathering.

Work with the Franko Museum in Winnipeg was discussed as well as cooperation with the Canadian Society for Ukrainian Labour Research. In the latter instance, of particular concern was how best to preserve and make available for study, the archives of the AUUC, at all levels.

To permit deeper study of a few issues, the National Committee decided to meet again in September. Among the topics on the agenda will be the beginning of the preparations for the next AUUC National Convention, succession, and two or three other items.

Only a few years ago, national meetings of the AUUC seemed to concentrate on surviving to the organization’s centennial and an orderly wind-up when the time came, Now the centennial is here and the discussion is what are the best projects to tackle next, and how we can ensure that our institutions, including the AUUC itself, will be well managed.

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## Commissioner Disappointed

Marion Buller, the Chief Commissioner of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls had asked for up to \$50 million in additional money and two more years to continue the inquiry. She expressed her disappointment when the federal government granted only six more months, and as much extra money as needed to finish the work. Ms. Buller said that the government decision was putting politics “ahead of the safety of our women and girls”.

Ms. Buller said that the decision will likely mean dropping proposed hearings on regional issues, and might not leave enough time to deeply study the child welfare system, education on reserves, and other factors.

Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister Carolyn Bennett said the government weighed the concerns of some who supported the call for an ex-

pression with those who didn't, as well as the interest of having a final report before the 2019 election.

Ottawa was also unable to get all provinces and territories to agree to extend the process in their jurisdictions, meaning the inquiry will lose its authority to subpoena witnesses as scheduled at the end of this year. The extra time is therefore meant mainly for drafting the final report.

Ms. Bennett also responded to the inquiry's interim report, which was published on November 1, 2017, with a series of recommendations for governmental action. According to a report in the *Toronto Star* on June 6 by Alex Ballingall of the Ottawa Bureau, the minister said that Ottawa will follow through on calls to establish a commemoration fund, pledging \$10 million for Indigenous organizations to organize memorial events, and provide \$125 mil-

lion over two years to fund a review of police policies and practices towards Indigenous peoples.

The government will also add \$213 million to health supports and victim services provided by the inquiry and community groups, and spend \$54 million in 2019-20 to extend the time-frame for family liaison units and funding for community-based organizations after the inquiry is finished.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police will receive \$9.6 million for a new unit that will oversee major investigations. Commissioner Buller said that this doesn't address her call for an independent task force to handle unsolved cases, a recommendation that wasn't made lightly, as many families have told the inquiry they don't trust police.

In an editorial in April concerning the request for more resources, the *Toronto Star* advised against meeting the request. The paper said, “The commission's work has been anything but stellar to date. It has been dogged by delays, infighting and departures...”

## First Nations Vote on Settlement

Seven First Nations spread out from Georgian Bay to Lake Scugog voted on June 22 whether to accept an \$11-billion settlement from the federal and Ontario governments over a long-standing treaty dispute. The deal would end decades of court litigation and negotiations over the controversial Williams Treaties from 1923.

The First Nations have alleged for years that the Crown unjustly crafted and implemented these agreements without fair compensation for their land, and that the nations never surrendered fishing, hunting and other rights in the treaties.

Included in the deal are; \$11 billion for the seven First Nations, and recognition of rights to hunt and fish on land from treaties signed before Confederation. Each nation would receive between \$90.9 million and \$98.7 million from the Canadian government, and

between \$60.6 million and \$66.2 million from Ontario.

The agreement would grant 312 square kilometres of new land to the First Nations. Both levels of government would apologize “for having denied rights and appropriate compensation to our First Nations for nearly a century”

The Williams Treaties dealt with lasting claims over huge swathes of land where treaties with Indigenous nations had never been signed. Much of the land in question was already being developed by settlers, who by the early 20th century had built homes, mines and lumber mills on land that the Chippewas and Mississaugas had never agreed to relinquish.

This was in violation of the 1763 Royal Proclamation, a foundational tenet of British colonialism in North America that required agreement from Indigenous peoples in exchange for European settlement of their land.

In 1914, the federal Justice Department learned that some pre-Confederation treaties were problematic, prompting Ottawa and Ontario to address the unceded territory and questionable previous deals at the same time.

The result was two treaties, inked in the fall of 1923, in which the seven nations received a lump sum of \$500,000 — or \$7.3 million at 2018 value — for massive tracts of land from Toronto's Humber River to the Bay of Quinte, and north past Georgian Bay to the Ottawa River.

Unlike other treaties in Ontario and elsewhere, there were no annual payments or new reserve lands for the First Nations in the deal, and the governments held that rights to fish and hunt on the territory had been surrendered.

Involved in the proposed settlement are the Alderville, Beausoleil, Chippewas of Georgina Island, Chippewas of Bama, Curve Lake, Hiawatha and Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nations.

(This report by Alex Ballingall appeared in the *Toronto Star* on June 22.)

## Limited Progress on “Calls to Action”

June 11 marked the 10th anniversary of Stephen Harper's apology to former students of the now infamous Indian Residential Schools (IRS). The Government's official apology was for the creation of policies, including the forced removal of Aboriginal children from their families, to “kill the Indian in the child” and force indigenous children to assimilate into Canada's dominant culture. The apology was part of a legal settlement known as the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement.

The Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement consists of five components: the Common Experience Payment, which compensated anyone who attended an IRS; the Independent Assessment Process, which was an adjudicated hearing process for former IRS students alleging physical or sexual abuse; Aboriginal Health and Healing Services, which aimed at addressing the impacts of abuses suffered in the IRS; Commemoration Fund, which supports the creation of commemoration projects; and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), which documented and preserved the experiences of survivors.

The TRC was established by the Government of Canada in June, 2008, as an arms-length organization with a 6-year mandate of touring the country, meeting with IRS survivors, and recording their ex-

periences.

In its first year, the TRC suffered from conflicts among its three commissioners, resulting in their eventual resignations and replacement by Murray Sinclair as Chair, Wilton Littlechild, and Marie Wilson. The term was extended by one year to 2015, and in June of that year, a closing ceremony was held at Rideau Hall.

In its final report, the TRC released 94 “Calls to Action”, divided into two broad groups — Legacy and Reconciliation — and controversially branded the IRS policies of Canada, “cultural genocide”. But after the fanfare of the TRC meetings and report, and the initial reactions in the media, little was heard about the status of the 94 “Calls to Action”.

Ian Mosby, a food historian who has written and lectured about the use of IRS students as guinea pigs in nutrition and starvation experiments permitted by the Canadian Government, began tracking what is being done to address these calls to action. In 2016, he found that only five of the calls had been completed. More troubling, no one else was tracking their status at that time.

The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) in Winnipeg started monitoring the calls to action on its website. By October, 2017, Mosby found that seven calls to action had been completed.

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) now tracks the status of the calls to action, but it often cites spending on general issues as opposed to specific accomplishments.

The CBC is now monitoring the status of the 94 calls to action on its website titled, *Beyond 94*. The website boasts that it is interactive and able to drill down to each of the 94 calls to action, though this feature was not functioning in the weeks leading up to the writing of this article. It does state that 10 are complete, 15 are under way, 25 are proposed, and 44 have not been started. The site has not been updated since March 2018.

In an interview with the CBC in 2017, Mosby said, “One thing that the calls to action that have been completed have in common, is that they are very simple to complete, or they are calls for things that were already happening to continue.”

Three years after the TRC report, though there has been activity on many of the calls to action, they remain largely incomplete. As an example, the second call to action is to have federal, provincial, and territorial governments publish annual reports of Aboriginal children in care, compared to non-Aboriginal children, reasons for apprehension, total spending on preventative and care services by child welfare agencies, and the effectiveness of interventions. Only in January, 2018, was an initial meeting held between the parties to discuss establishing measurable goals and infor-

mation sharing. We are a long way from seeing a first report.

But at least that call is being considered. The ninth call is “publish annual reports comparing education funding on and off reserves, as well as education and income levels of Aboriginal vs non-Aboriginals”. The INAC website does indicate that Indigenous Services Canada reports on K-12 expenditures, but there is no mention of efforts to ensure that it is in a comparable format to provincial and territorial data, nor is there any mention of comparing incomes or education.

The Commission of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was one call that has been acted on by the government. Despite issues with its initial implementation, it delivered an interim report on November 1, 2017. However, the existence of many issues pertaining to a limited mandate has meant that there is much criticism of this Commission. The response to a request for a two-year extension was an extension for only six months.

The IRS policies of Canada were in place from the early 1800s until the last IRS closed in 1996. Many generations of Aboriginal people have been adversely affected in ways that few can grasp. The TRC and other efforts towards reconciliation are of huge importance. There is no quick fix, however, there is no logic in waiting to begin to make the effort that this healing requires.

— Michael Parasiuk

## Indigenous Think Tank

On June 5, the Yellowhead Institute, Canada's first Indigenous-led think tank, was launched by writer and educator Hayden King. Based at Ryerson University in Toronto, the institution has a seven-member advisory board that is entirely Indigenous except for the research director, Shiri Pasternak, an ally who has worked with Indigenous communities for over a decade.

## Current Eclectic

### The Danger Is Much Higher

While NATO is adopting the four 30s (30 troop battalions, 30 squadrons of aircraft, 30 battleships, deployed within 30 days), to be in place to face off against Russia by 2020, Russia has the same deadline for deployment of new nuclear weapons which are said to be far ahead of foreign designs.

Descriptions of the two plans suggest that NATO is preparing for a huge war fought with conventional weapons, while Russia is concentrating on deterring a first strike by NATO.

President Putin said at a meeting in Sochi that delivery of the new Avangard hypersonic vehicle will begin next year, while the new Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) will enter duty in 2020. Both of these nuclear weapons were brought to public attention in March.

When presenting the Avangard, President Putin said

that it has an intercontinental range and can fly in the atmosphere at 20 times the speed of sound. It can change both its course and its altitude en route to a target, making it “absolutely invulnerable to any air or missile defence means.”

Using new composite materials, Avangard is able to withstand temperatures of up to 2,000°C generated by flying through the atmosphere at hypersonic speeds.

The Sarmat is designed to replace the Voyevoda, the world’s heaviest ICBM. The Voyevoda, known as “Satan” in the West, carries ten nuclear warheads.

The Sarmat weighs 200 metric tonnes and carries a bigger number of nuclear warheads than Satan, each of them more powerful than the ones on Satan. The Sarmat has a higher range than Satan allowing it to fly over the North or the South Poles and strike targets anywhere in the world.

Because it accelerates faster than Satan, it is less vulnerable to interception when launched.

The missiles it carries could be capable of dodging missile defences.

It should be noted that NATO often speaks about the size of Russia’s military forces, while Russia has expressed concern about America’s upgrading of its nuclear arsenal and the possibility of a pre-emptive American strike. While these recent developments may be intended by each side to restore the balance of power, as each claims, it is not surprising that each feels threatened by the actions of the other.

In an earlier period, mutually assured destruction (MAD) imparted a certain stability to the system of hostility. Nevertheless, there was constant concern about the possibility of something going wrong, leading to the annihilation of humanity.

Today, the world is much more complex, with many more active agents, and available reaction times are much shorter. Even if MAD is recognized as the reality, the danger of a malfunction or a miscalculation leading to disaster is much higher.

### Bizarre Period in US History!

May and June were nothing short of bizarre on the global scale, with most of the drama centring on President Trump and the USA.

By the beginning of May, the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea were getting along so well that it was being suggested that South Korean President Moon Jae-in be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

The presidents of the two parts of Korea were talking about complete denuclearization of the peninsula and talks to formally end the Korean war of 1950-53.

The DPRK released three Americans who had been held prisoner as spies, and did a number of confidence-building moves.

By the end of May, President Trump had cancelled a scheduled meeting with Kim Jong Un, then said the meeting might only be postponed, and then said the meeting in Singapore might happen after all. At the beginning of June, it was on.

While Trump was waffling, the two Korean presidents were holding meetings. There was a developing sense that peace talks would go on with or without Trump. However, no peace treaty would be possible, as the RoK was not a signatory to the cease fire now in place.

Trade talks were being held with China to try to avoid a trade war, with President Trump threatening tariffs on \$US150 billion of Chinese goods. By mid-May, the conflict was growing. By the beginning of June, it became apparent that talks would have limited, if any, success, and the imposition of tariffs began.

The mysterious affliction that had been affecting US diplomats in Cuba was appearing as a problem in China.

As June approached, China awarded Ivanka Trump seven new trademarks across a wide range of businesses. In the meantime President Trump tried to keep Chinese firm ZTE, a Chinese telecommunications firm in violation of US trade sanctions, from failing.

Early in May, the US withdrew from the nuclear accord with Iran, a move supported by few countries besides Israel and Saudi Arabia. Germany’s Chancellor Angela Merkel was strongly critical of the US move.

Russia’s President Vladimir Putin also criticised Trump’s move, while bemoaning the failed hopes of improving USA-Russian relations.

Then there was the theatre of the NAFTA negotiations, with President Trump ultimately declaring that he

wanted separate treaties with Canada and Mexico. Toward the end of May, Trump threatened tariffs on cars imported from Canada and Mexico. In the meantime, he put tariffs on steel and aluminium, including the product coming from Canada, for “national security” reasons, Canada decided to retaliate, “A turning point in the Canada-US relationship”. Canada gave a month notice.

Canada also filed trade complaints within the NAFTA framework, and with the World Trade Organization.

No NAFTA agreement was reached before the Mexican election, or in time for consideration by this congress.

Though aware that “national security reasons” was a fiction to avoid violation of international agreements, Canadian officials, including the Prime Minister, expressed indignation at the thought that anything Canadian could pose a national security threat to the USA.

Mexico applied retaliatory tariffs against the USA, targeting goods which would affect Trump supporters.

Then, along came the G-7. Because President Trump was increasingly at loggerheads with the other members, the media dubbed the meeting the G-6 plus 1. President Trump lived up to his role; he arrived late and proceeded to opine that the whole thing should be restored to G-8 by bringing Russia back.

The other members of the G-7 reacted with predictable shock, pointing out (as though President Trump did not know it) that Russia was expelled for bad behaviour and had not changed that behaviour.

The US President left the G-7 early, because of his scheduled meeting with the president of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. He launched an attack on Prime Minister Trudeau, and ordered his people not to sign the final communique from the G-7.

While attacking the special council for the Russia probe, President Trump asserted that he has the right to pardon himself. His advisors advised against using it.

Very early in June, it was revealed that the Trump administration was arresting border crossers and holding them in adult-only prisons. Their children were being sent to separate detention facilities. The worldwide outcry, including by US Republicans, caused a change in the policy, but only after more than 2000 children had been traumatised. Some may never be reunited with their parents.

Now they’ll be illegally deported without a hearing.

## Record Number of Displaced People

The United Nations reports that, in 2017, 68.5 million people worldwide were displaced, a record number as war, violence and persecution drove more people from their homes.

In 2017, one person fled from home every two seconds due to man-made tragedies. The total number of forcibly displaced people almost equalled the entire population of Thailand, said the UN Refugee agency’s annual *Global Trends Report*.

Of those, 25.4 million were refugees, who fled to another country to escape conflict and persecution. Asylum seekers, who were still waiting for the outcome of their claims, rose by 300,000 to 3.1 million.

According to the report, last year 85% of refugees were housed in developing countries, many of which are themselves extremely poor and receive little international support to care for these populations.

Africa (excluding North Africa) sheltered 31.4% of the world’s refugees; the Asia Pacific region, 21.1%; and the Middle East and North Africa, 13.6%. Europe hosted 30.7 % of the refugee population, but more than half of them were in Turkey. The Americas were home to only 3.2% of refugees.

Refugees from just 10 countries made up 82% of those under the UN’s mandate:

Syria; Afghanistan; South Sudan; Myanmar; Somalia; Sudan; the Congo; Central African Republic; Eritrea and Burundi.

The global displaced population is young—53% are chil-

dren, including many who are unaccompanied or are separated from their families.

“No one becomes a refugee by choice, but the rest of us can have a choice about how we help.”

## Monthly Jobs report

According to the Statscan Monthly Jobs Report released on June 8, the number of people employed in Canada basically did not change from April to May. However, a look at the situation province by province shows quite a bit of change.

In Newfoundland and Labrador there were 500 more people employed in May than in April. Unfortunately, that represented a loss of 4,900 full time jobs and a gain of 5,300 part time positions. That would seem to be a loss for working people and their families.

In Prince Edward Island, there were 800 more jobs, of which 500 were full-time, 300 part-time.

Nova Scotia lost 3,600 jobs, including 1,900 full-time and 1,800 part-time.

New Brunswick gained a net 1,800 jobs, gaining 2,800 full-jobs and losing 1,000 part-time positions.

Quebec gained 4,700, but

this was the result of losing 37,600 full-time jobs in exchange for 42,300 part-time ones: probably not a positive outcome.

Ontario had a bright picture. Its net gain of 1,000 jobs represented a gain of 20,900 full-time jobs, while losing 19,900 part-timers.

Manitoba lost 1,100 jobs, but gained 3,200 in full-time work while losing 4,300 part-time jobs. That probably represents a positive result over all.

Saskatchewan was an all-round loser, with 1,500 full-time and 800 part-time positions gone, for a total loss of 2,100

Alberta did well too, gaining a net 2,900 jobs of which 3,200 full-time were gained and 200 part-time were lost.

British Columbia was hard-hit, losing 16,000 full-time jobs, while gaining only 3,600 part-time positions, for a net loss of 12,400 jobs.

The numbers do not always add up because of rounding errors. The report gives the numbers to the nearest thousand, which (obviously) does not work very well for low numbers.

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN

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not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board.**Opportunity Looms**

AN EDITORIAL by WILFRED SZCZESNY

The first shots of the trade war have been fired, and some of the fallout is already being seen. It will get worse before it's done; the only question is how bad.

With our main market, both for exports and for imports determined to punish us, we could be in for a period of high prices and high unemployment. But this is not 1929. It is not all against all. For the moment, at least, it looks like one, the instigator, against all. We have free trade agreements with many countries and blocs around the world, most of them in similar circumstances. Instead of banging our heads against the American tariff wall, we should be seeking out new markets, both for the things we buy and for the things we sell. If the USA is attacking friend and foe alike, we should all become friends, with a common foe.

Instead of looking at this trade war as a disaster, we should look at it as an opportunity, a chance to do the diversification we always talk about.

Finding new customers and new suppliers is easier than it was in 1929. Just sit at your computer and make your deal. Still, it takes a bit of time to settle in, and there will be a period of adjustment. However, in the long run, we can expect to be stronger as a result of this American attack.

What does the United States produce that no one else does? Probably nothing. If there is something, is it indispensable or irreplaceable? Probably not.

With the USA not flooding the markets, our products could become more competitive. With the world's biggest customer shut down for business, maybe prices will come down a bit.

The worst thing to do now is to let the trade war spread, so that the situation becomes a repetition of 1929.

The United States may be bigger than anyone else, but it is not bigger than everyone else.

**COMMENTARY****Naqba 70: Hope Lives in Remembrance**

*"[T]he story of 1948... is the simple but horrific story of the ethnic cleansing of Palestine... Retrieving it from oblivion is incumbent upon us... it is ... the very first step we must take if we ever want reconciliation to have a chance, and peace to take root, in the torn lands of Palestine and Israel."*

— Ilan Pappé, Israeli Historian, *"The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine"*.

Seventy years ago, Palestinians experienced the catastrophe of being exiled from their homes and villages. Many Palestinians left their homes with no more than their house keys and their memories. House keys symbolize loss for many generations of Palestinians. Those keys also symbolize resistance and hope.

Al Naqba, Arabic for "the catastrophe", is commemorated on May 15 of each year. Far from a symbolic occasion, the Naqba is the living memory of a history that is so often denied. Just as importantly, Naqba is an act of resistance.

Al Naqba refers to the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians before and after British forces evacuated Palestine. The UN Partition Plan came into force on May 15, 1948, and Israel declared itself a state. By that date, 350,000 Palestinians had been forcibly expelled from their homes. Families packed a few belongings, locked their doors, secured their keys and

moved, expecting to return shortly. In total, over 700,000 Palestinians were tricked, pushed, intimidated, killed or exiled. Their homes and land were confiscated, and a documented 531 villages and towns were destroyed. That "temporary" expulsion is now in its 70th year. There is no right of return under Israeli law, despite international law and United Nations Resolutions. Israel maintains discriminatory laws and systems that control Palestinians' rights, movements, resources, and nearly every aspect of their lives.

The day before Naqba, on May 14, 2018, the anniversary of the establishment of Israel, Palestinians experienced the highest death toll at the hands of the Israeli Defence Forces since the 2014 assault on Gaza. At least 58 non-violent protesters were killed, and over 2,200 injured, as they gathered near the militarized border wall between Gaza and illegal Israeli settlements. Israel made the cynical claim that its war crimes and violence were justified because Hamas, the governing party of the Palestinian Authority, was sending terrorists through the gaps in the fence created by the protesters.

Images and videos of Israel's atrocities were shared in real time. The IDF story of threatened Israeli settlements was not borne out. Human rights advocacy organizations were quick to condemn Isra-

el's actions.

Amnesty International Research and Advocacy Director for the Middle East and North Africa at Amnesty International, Philip Luther said:

"This is another horrific example of the Israeli military using excessive force and live ammunition in a totally deplorable way. This is a violation of international standards, in some instances committing what appear to be wilful killings constituting war crimes."<sup>1</sup>

Political organizations like the Canadian Labour Congress and the Canadian Union of Public Employees issued similar statements, as did the NDP and the Green Party.<sup>2</sup> Last year, the Canada-Palestine Friendship Group, made up of Members of Parliament, was re-established in Ottawa, providing a much-needed platform for dialogue and policy development.<sup>3</sup>

Last year, Trudeau fronted a reactionary Liberal campaign condemning boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel. Canada did not cast a vote in the United Nations decision to reject U.S. President Donald Trump's assertion that Jerusalem was the capital of Israel. But, on May 16, 2018, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued an important statement, critical of Israel's actions.<sup>4</sup>

In light of what appeared to be the deliberate (non-fatal) shooting by the IDF of Dr. Tarek Loubani, a Canadian physician who was in Gaza providing medical attention to injured protesters, Trudeau had this to say: "Canada deplores and is gravely concerned by the violence in the Gaza Strip that has led to a tragic loss of life and injured countless people." He added: "Reported use of excessive force and live ammunition is inexcusable. [...] Canada calls for an immediate independent investigation to thoroughly examine the facts on the ground — including any incitement, violence, and the excessive use of force."

These developments are encouraging, and represent an important shift in mainstream public discourse in Canada on  
(Continued on Page 12.)

**FROM OUR READERS**

On behalf of the executive and membership of the Federation of Russian Canadians - AB, please find enclosed a cheque for the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) to help keep this excellent paper publishing. This paper tells the readers what is behind the stories we see and hear in and on other media.

Keep up the great work.

Lydia Husak and Dr. Jack Tarasoff  
Calgary, AB

**SEE US ON THE WEB!**

AUUC (National)  
auuc.ca

Edmonton AUUC, Trembita Ensemble  
www.ukrainiancentre-edm.ca

Regina AUUC, Poltava Ensemble  
http://www.poltava.ca/

Taras Shevchenko Museum:  
www.infoukes.com/shevchenkomuseum

Vancouver AUUC  
http://www.auucvancouver.ca/

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## Calgary AUUC at Ukrainian Festival

It is always a pleasure to be part of the Calgary Ukrainian Festival, as the atmosphere created is one of visual and gastronomic delights.

Among the many booths that present Ukrainian pysanky, art, clothing, giftware, and music, you are sure to find poppy seed cake, hulva and pyrushki. The air is suffused with the cooking smells from borscht, to kovbasa; holubtsi and of course the favourite, pyrogies. Ukrainian beer is always on hand for those who wish to indulge. So pull up a chair to the table, enjoy your scrumptious food, and feast your eyes and ears on the glo-

rious musical extravaganza on stage.

The Calgary Hopak Ensemble was invited to open the entertainment portion of the festival on Saturday, June 3.

The Hopak and Tynok dance groups presented “*My z Ukrainy*”, as the first number in the program. It is always a pleasure to watch the younger dancers weaving in and out among the more seasoned Hopak Group. Well done!

The Hopak Choir and Orchestra resumed the show with two fun-filled songs about the trials in life!

Following that, the Hopak Orchestra continued to pro-

vide the music for our tiniest dancers, Cherevichky, who presented the “Ribbon Dance”. How cute were they!!

The fourth number presented was by the Chervony Venochek Dance Group with their highstepping “Moldavian Dance”.

There were so many groups performing this year, it was really hard to leave your seat for fear of missing the wonderful displays of talent. The Festival organizing committee did a superb job of accommodating all this talent by interspersing singing with dancing with instrumental numbers.

And so, after a few other groups performed, the Hopak Ensemble was back with the Hopak Dance Group that per-

formed “Volyn Kozachok”. The Tynok dance group followed with the “Ukrainian Dance”. Of course, our all-boys group, Harniy Sharavary, were a hit with their “Kozak Spear Dance”.

We are so proud that the Hopak Dance Group continued presenting their dance repertoire throughout the rest of Saturday and returned to do it all over again on Sunday. Aah, to be so young and full of energy!

The Calgary Ukrainian Fes-

tival continues to be a huge display of Ukrainian culture and traditions, and thousands of Calgarians make it an annual event. It is held in the Acadia Recreation Centre, providing ample room to see and be seen. It is unfailingly a fun place to bring the family, as there is always an arts and crafts table for the kids, face painting, balloon animals, and much more.

We so look forward the next year. See you there!

—Darlene Hrynchyshyn

—Photo: Darlene Hrynchyshyn



The Hopak and Tynok dance groups performed *My z Ukrainy* to open their presentation at the Calgary Ukrainian festival on June 2 and 3.



The Hopak Dancers performed a Kuban dance choreographed by Trevor Shola.

## Calgary AUUC Celebrates 100th

On May 6, the Calgary Hopak Ensemble of the Calgary Branch of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians once more presented an annual spring concert at the Leacock Theatre at, Mount Royal University.

Titled *Celebrating our 100th*, this concert was like a walk down memory lane.

In the lobby of the theatre, guests were treated to a picture display that demonstrated the history of our organization. Thanks to Debra Skrabeck for locating and displaying these pictures which spanned a time from the 1920s to the present day. It was wonderful to see our more senior members identify themselves in the pictures when they, too, were

a part of the dance troupe, orchestra or children’s choir.

The Calgary Hopak Choir and Orchestra, under the direction of Violetta Dimitrova, were joined by Edmonton’s Trembita choir, guest artists. It is such a pleasure to hear the combined choirs present their repertoire as one. We make beautiful music together!

Thank you Olesya Nazarenko, Trembita Choir director, for taking this journey with us. Thank you also, to Trembita’s soloist, Orest Hrenchukh, for his most heartfelt rendition of “*Neech yaka meesyachna*”.

Not only does the Calgary Hopak Orchestra accompany all the dance groups and the choir, they also play pieces for

—Photo: Shelley Ng



The combined Hopak and Trembita choirs, directed by Violetta Dimotrov, with soloist Orest Hrechukh, performed the lovely “*Neech yaka meesyachna*”.

their own enjoyment. This year, Violetta challenged them with the “Italian Polka” by Rachmaninov, “Barrel Organ Waltz” by Shostakovich and selections from “*Zaporozhets za Dunayem*” just to keep them on their toes!

Our celebratory concert opened with the combined forces of the Hopak Senior Dance group and the young Tynok dancers in “*My z Ukrainy*”. Choreographed by Trevor Shular, assisted by Jenna Dudar and Trista Bailey, this dance continued to weave patterns where young dancers and older danced together as one. It ended with a traditional presentation of bread and salt, but with two presenters: one a Tynok dancer, one a Hopak dancer.

The mixed choirs opened the program with the beautiful “*Ukraino lyubov moyu*”, a love song to Ukraine, and continued by celebrating the passing years with “*Navulytsi muzychenka hraye*” and “*Oy pid vyshneyu*”. In each song, the old and young must come to an understanding!

The Dance School, under the able leadership of Trista Bailey, continues to bring the audience to their feet. The Harniy Sharavary Dance Group fought their way on stage with spears and enthusiasm. Choreographed by Dianne Gereluk and assisted by David Klassen, this

Cossack Spear Dance continues to be a favourite.

Our Cherevichky Dance Group, under the direction of Natasha Jeanson and Christopher Monaghan, is our youngest group of dancers. And yet, they managed to complete a “Ribbon Dance”, with no tangles! Yeah, group!

Our cuteness metre went through the roof when the Chervony Venochek Dance group presented their “Moldavian Dance”. Choreographed by Liza Makarova, these tiny dancers in red head scarves and red slippers were just adorable. Well done girls!

The Tynok Dance Group, choreographed by Jenna Dudar, was kept busy learning a second dance. With ribbons swirling and blue skirts twirling, this “Ukrainian Dance” could not have been more eye catching.

Thank you to all the parents

who encourage their children to attend Ukrainian dance classes to help carry on traditions and culture.

Thank you to our instructors who give of their time to prepare dance lessons and find music and costumes that work for their vision.

Thank you to Kay Skrabeck, who knows where to find these costumes, and with help from Mal Smandysh, keeps them in pristine condition.

Thank you to Lori Forte, who continues to be our MC for these wonderful concerts. Your efforts are so appreciated!

Thank you to Julia Meeder, who acted as stage manager, and kept the show moving. You go, girl!

Thank you to all for another wonderful, colourful, energetic, enthusiastic year! Join us again in the Fall.

—Darlene Hrynchyshyn

—Photo: Shelley Ng



Calgary’s youngest group of dancers, the Cherevichky Dance Group, under the direction of Natasha Jeanson and Christopher Monaghan, presented “Ribbon Dance”.

# AUUC Celebrated in Vancouver

(Continued from Page 1.) Be Sunshine” presented its anti-war message in English and Russian, with the Barvinok Children’s Choir coming on stage to add their voices.

A word about the children in this concert; they stole the show, of course, as the little ones always do, but that’s not all. The Barvinok Children’s Choir, whose very existence is noteworthy, has six members, with quite an age range. An oversight, no doubt, but the program does not mention, as it should, who works with them (perhaps it is Kiera Lukornskyj, who appears on stage with them).

The program does mention

Laurel Lawry, Director of the Dovbush School of Ukraine Dance, Artistic Director Tamara Pitts, and five instructors and assistants who work with the 29 dance students.

All the people who work with the children at the AUUC

Vancouver Branch should be very proud. The youngsters show all the little foibles which so endear them to us, but they also show evidence that they are being taught effectively, with careful and loving attention to their healthy development.

The second group to appear on the stage was the Barvinok Choir, conducted by Beverly Dobrinsky and accompanied by the Vancouver Folk Ensemble. In its eight songs in four sets, the choir showed its versatility, performing songs ranging from traditional Ukrainian folk songs like “Oy u poli nyvka” to the American peace ballad “Strangest Dream”, with moods from the dirge-like

“Dumy moyi” (My thoughts) to the rousing “Solidarity Forever”.

The appearance of the Barvinok Choir was much enhanced by the accompaniment of the Vancouver Folk Ensemble, because some of the better-known selections took on a new life with accompaniments arranged for the orchestra.

The Vancouver Folk Ensemble is an interesting story in itself. Although its history can be traced to before 1923, there is a hiatus of about a year, until the current conductor, Pavel Rhyzlovsky, was asked, in 2016, to direct the group. The printed program has a group photo of eleven players and lists 17 musicians. A handful of the players rehearse regularly, others participate as performances ap-

proach, and on special occasions, like *Celebration 100*, a few are hired, primarily to augment the sound. (A similar situation existed at the turn of the millennium with the AUUC orchestra in Edmonton.)

On this evening, in addition to accompaniments, the Vancouver Folk Ensemble played three orchestral pieces. Because I have played the piece as a mandocellist with two other orchestras, the most interesting to me was P. Kulikov’s “The Linden Tree”, a number probably familiar to most players in AUUC orchestras. Mr. Rhyzlovsky has rearranged the music very creatively for the instruments in his group, but however beautiful, the essence of the piece could not be maintained. In particular, there is a passage (Continued on Page 7.)



It was a busy event for M.C. Libby Griffin.



Guest performer Olesia Shewchuk performed an aria from *Natalka Poltavka* and “*Zakuvala zozulenka*”.



The Dovbush Dancers’ “*Polis’ki koketky*” featured fancy footwork and high kicks.



The Druzhiba Dancers presented the lively Transcarpathian dance “*Zakarpatskiy tanets*”.



The women of the Dovbush Dancers glided through the graceful “*Ne shumy kolyon’ko*”.



The trio of Tetiana Zaruba, Libby Griffin and Aliya Griffin sang “*Lelechenky*” from the film *Son, the Dream*.



The Dovbush Dancers exhibited precision in “*Viteretz*”, a kozachok



The Barvinok Children’s Choir performed “*Soroka Vorona*” to the delight of the audience.



The Dovbush School of Ukrainian Dance entertained with “*Radisna yunist*”.

# AUUC Celebrated in Vancouver

(Continued from Page 6.) which is traditionally played by the mandocellos which quite loses its character when assigned to accordions (if I remember correctly).

The Vancouver Folk Ensemble also played a delightful “Festive Hopak” and “Bright Shines the Moon”.

Let us not forget the dancers – two groups of them.

The Druzhba Dancers may be considered either the seniors of the School of Dance, or the reserves for the Dovbush Dancers. They appeared on the program twice, as three pairs, performing “Zakarpatskiy tanets” (Transcarpathian

— Photo: Dan Fung



“My pamyatayemo” was part of a powerful antiwar message opening the second half.



In their second appearance, “Metelitsya”, the Druzhba Dancers reflected a swirling snowstorm.



The Dovbush Dancers’ “Bukovinska suita” reflected youthful social interaction — woo and win.

— Photo: Dan Fung



The Vancouver Folk Ensemble played three numbers, and accompanied the choir.

dance) and “Metelitsya” (Snowstorm), acquitting themselves excellently well each time. They were precise and energetic, requirements of both dances. “Metelitsya”, organized chaos that it was in imitation of the seemingly random shifts in blowing snow, demanded something more, and the dancers were up to the challenge. The dance was a thing of beauty as they flitted about, seemingly at random but never losing touch with their partners or the two other couples.

In this concert, the Dovbush Dancers showed that they belong in the top tier of amateur dance groups, above some of the professional troupes that I have seen. Their men are strong, bold and energetic, with daring high leaps second to none, and indefatigable work close to the ground. Their women are strong, graceful, flirtatious and self-assured, with spins, hand control, and foot movements comparable to the best. Whether in the calm movements of “Ny shumy kolonon’ko”, where patterns are highlighted, or in the manic spurts of energy in a kozachok, in the group’s seven appearances in the concert, the dancers were always

synchronized from head to toe – the togetherness of the foot stamping is perhaps the best, though not the only, evidence of that.

The Dovbush Dancers’ last number, “Hopak semyorka” reminded us why the dance is so popular, both on stage and at Ukrainian weddings. The hopak is a competition, with each male dancer striving to outdo his predecessor, and each woman showing her grace and strength. At weddings, it sometimes leads to heart attacks; on stage it always leads to incredible displays of virtuosity.

Not to be overlooked is Olesia Shewchuk’s operatic voice in two contrasting appearances. On her first appearance, she sang the aria “Viyut’ vitry” (The winds are blowing) from M. Lysenko’s opera *Natalka Poltavka*, with the dramatic gestures appropriate to the opera. A few numbers later, in a much calmer performance, she sang “Zakuvala zozulenka” (A cuckoo called, words by Taras Shevchenko, music by Ihor Shamo). Ms. Shewchuk was accompanied by E. Joe.

It was a long trip from Toronto to see a concert in Vancouver, and a longer one returning, but the quality of this uplifting event made every moment worthwhile. The

AUUC Vancouver Branch Executive, starting with Branch President Dianna Kleparchuk, has certainly to be congratulated on this achievement by the Branch.

Debbie Karras deserves special mention twice; first as the Production Director who had the leading responsibility for guiding this project to its brilliant conclusion, and second as Cultural Director of AUUC Vancouver Branch and Artistic Director of the Dovbush Dancers. Under her management, the performing arts in AUUC Vancouver Branch are at a high level and striving for even greater achievements. Of course, Ms. Karras did not do it all herself, and the program has a long list of people whose work was essential to the success of the production.

Some other people, however, just have to be mentioned. The directors and conductors of the performing arts groups, whose professional leadership is indispensable, including Barvinok Choir Director Beverly Dobrinsky, Vancouver Folk Ensemble Director Pavel Rhyzlovsky, Dovbush School of Ukrainian Dance Directors Tamara Pitts and Laurel Lawry.

Congratulations to all on a job well done!

—Wilfred Szczesny



The Barvinok Choir and the Barvinok Children’s Choir joined voices in “May There Always Be Sunshine”.



“Hopak semyorka”, with its energetic leaps and dizzying spins, is the ideal closer.



A finale of “Mnohaya lita” repeatedly — boring, right? Not in this arrangement by Beverly Dobrinsky, with its many intriguing variations.

## Vancouver Banquet Celebrates Anniversary

Following the June 8 concert at the North Vancouver Centennial Theatre, AUUC Vancouver Branch continued its celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians and the 90th anniversary of the Ukrainian Cultural Centre with a sold-out banquet at the hall on the evening of Sunday, June 10.

The event was opened by Libby Griffin, continuing from Friday in her role as MC. Ms. Griffin bade everyone welcome, and gave a brief expla-



**AUUC Vancouver Branch President Dianna Kleparchuk thanked the many people responsible for the success of the celebration.**



**AUUC National President Bob Seychuk spoke on behalf of the National Committee.**



**AUUC Edmonton Branch President Andrew Thompson spoke a few words from his Branch.**

nation of the event. Her comments included the information that the performing arts component would be a selection of items from the concert two days earlier.

Then it was the traditional bread and salt presentation by identical twins Alexandra and Tatyana Beck. The choreography took full advantage of the stage as the dancers gracefully flowed through various patterns.

Next on the program was AUUC Vancouver Branch President Dianna Kleparchuk who spoke briefly of the transition of the hall from the Ukrainian Labour Temple, as it originated, to the current Ukrainian Cultural Centre. She paid tribute to Debbie Karras, Dan and Delores Fung, Janice Beck, and Kelly Bizovie, and the many other people who played key roles in making the celebration so special. Libby Griffin, who did the research and tied it together, also got special mention.

The Branch President said, "Although this past weekend was a tribute to our Association and the Hall, we actually started our celebration in March, when Libby Griffin gave an interesting and illuminating PowerPoint presentation of Ukrainian immigration to Canada that highlighted her personal experiences as a first generation Ukrainian Canadian growing up in the Ukrainian community of Volin, Alberta."

Dianna Kleparchuk informed her audience of a heritage quilt being prepared by the craft group, and ended her remarks by introducing a few guests: Edmonton AUUC Branch President Andrew Thompson; AUUC National President Bob Seychuk; and Wilfred Szczesny, National Vice-President and Editor-in-Chief of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*. She then invited Mr. Thompson to the microphone.

The Edmonton AUUC Branch President seemed surprised by the invitation to speak, but he rose to the occasion with very brief comments. Mr. Thompson congratulated AUUC Vancouver Branch on their celebration, and extended the best wishes of AUUC Edmonton Branch. He expressed his pleasure at being in attendance, and his hope for future visits.

Next to speak was AUUC National President Bob Seychuk, who began by commenting that the hall "looks good", and extending greetings from the National Committee of the AUUC. Noting that 100 years and 90 years are long periods in the life of an organization, Mr. Seychuk remarked that there had been

many changes over those years. He then outlined some of those changes, as he presented a capsule history of the AUUC. One of those changes, he reported, is that the AUUC is in a better financial position than ever before. "We are optimistic" about the future of the organization, he said.

Before the performing groups took to the stage, there was a brief dissertation by Ms. Kleparchuk on the backdrops and other scenery on the stage, of which the Ukrainian Cultural Centre has four sets. These were created long ago by Bill Stefiuk, whose art, at one time, graced the stages of many other AUUC buildings across Canada.

(It should be noted that production of plays was such a central activity in the AUUC and its predecessor, the Ukrainian Labour-Farmer Temple Association, that even the smallest of the hundreds of halls were built with a stage.)

The Dovbush Dancers appeared next, to begin the performing arts section of the program. They performed "Bukovinian Suite", which started with the stately entrance of the women. With the arrival of the men, the dance gained energy, with much fancy footwork and stamping.

The dancers were followed by the Barvinok Choir, accompanied by the Vancouver Folk Ensemble, performing "Rozpriahayte khloptsi koni" and "Reve ta stohne". The group, mainly formed of seniors, sings in four-part harmony. It was a pleasure to hear the sopranos reach some pretty high notes with a good tone.

Next, the Vancouver Folk Ensemble, conducted by Pavel Rhyzlovsky, played a delightful "Bright Shines the Moon", a standard familiar to audiences of most AUUC orchestras.

The Dovbush Dancers returned once more, to perform "Viteretz", with the energy typical of a hopak.

Within a few minutes of the concert ending, dinner was served, a buffet with the traditional dishes as well as a few rarer ones. Though the food prepared and served by Halyna's Catering was delicious, for many diners part of its goodness was the very fact that it was catered. On this celebratory occasion, members who would otherwise have spent their day in the kitchen and their evening dishing out and cleaning up were able to relax and enjoy, .

Dessert and coffee came with song sheets. Choir director Beverly Dobrinsky, with orchestra director Pavel Rhyzlovsky providing accompaniment on an accordion, led the assembly through a half-dozen or so songs in English and in Ukrainian.

(Continued on page 10.)



**The bread and salt welcome was presented by identical twins Alexandra and Tatyana Beck.**



**The Barvinok Choir, accompanied by the Vancouver Folk Ensemble, sang "Rozpriahayte khloptsi koni" and "Reve ta stohne". The orchestra, conducted by Pavel Rhyznovsky, then presented "Bright Shines the Moon".**



**Among the executive members attending were (left to right) Edmonton Branch President Andrew Thompson, Vancouver Branch Vice-President Nina Hobbis, Vancouver Branch Recording Secretary Michael Parasiuk, Vancouver Branch Executive Member Audrey Moysiuk, AUUC National President Bob Seychuk, Vancouver Branch President Dianna Kleparchuk, Vancouver Branch Financial Secretary Dan Fung, National Vice-President Wilfred Szczesny, Vancouver Branch Membership secretary Kelly Bizovie, Vancouver Branch Executive Member Delores Fung, and Vancouver Branch Executive Member Larry Kleparchuk.**



**The Dovbush Dancers performed "Bukovinian Suite",**



## Ukrainian Miscellany

### War Danger Grows

On June 7, NATO defence ministers meeting in Brussels adopted American demands that NATO increase its military strength and combat readiness. This agreement by defence ministers lays the ground for adoption of the plan by NATO leaders at a summit in July.

Dubbed the “Four Thirties” plan, it calls for the capability to deploy 30 troop battalions, 30 squadrons of aircraft, and 30 warships within 30 days. It is scheduled to be in place by 2020.

Touted as a “fresh move to shore up NATO’s deterrence against a potential Russian attack”, the move will enhance NATO’s ability to launch a sudden attack, and will probably be seen as a threat by Russia. Another round of sabre rattling and competitive building of military capability can be expected.

The moves were supposedly taken to counter unspecified “increased threats from Russia”. The threats are couched in vague phrases like “seeking to shatter the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation”

Speaking on June 15, the US Secretary of Defence

James Mathis is reported to have said, “Putin seeks to shatter NATO. He aims to diminish the appeal of the Western democratic model and attempts to undermine America’s moral authority. His actions are designed not to challenge our arms, at this point, but to undercut and compromise our belief in our ideals.”

It is noteworthy that a top American spokesperson declares Western and American values to be so easily challenged. He is right to be concerned. Around the world, quite independently of President Putin’s intent, people are recognizing the discrepancy between lofty American proclamations and the realities revealed by President Trump’s administration.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters that the defence ministers had also decided on additional measures “to strengthen our shared security and boost defence and deterrence against threats from any direction”.

NATO has no alternative to recognizing “the backdrop of growing Transatlantic strains”. A solution being proposed is “strengthening

NATO’s partnership with Ukraine”. Though Ukraine wants to join NATO, the current security situation and the status of Ukraine’s defence reforms prevents such an event. However, Ukraine could become an Enhanced Opportunities Partner, joining Australia, Finland, Georgia, Jordan, and Sweden.

The arguments for including Ukraine as an EOP are: its enthusiastic support for NATO missions; its high level of military spending; it has “forged the most battle-hardened troops on the European continent” and “a significant military-industrial sector”; no one else has as much knowledge of Russia; it is strategically well placed “to protect NATO’s southeastern flank”.

Ukraine, it seems, would be a considerable addition to NATO’s military strength, particularly in the confronting Russia. The value of this asset is being enhanced, with NATO members (including Canada) training Ukrainian troops, and the armed forces being given lethal weapons like the Javelin antitank missile.

Russia is not NATO’s only target. The military alliance has increased its global reach by taking in Colombia.

**Note:** Readers may detect inconsistencies in the spelling of some words transliterated from Ukrainian, particularly names. Our general rule is not to change spellings that appear in quotations, but to use our preferred spelling outside of quotations. —Ed.

### Ukraine Given Conditional Loan

The European Parliament is always ready to assist Ukraine but, as with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, conditions may apply.

Recently it was reported that the EP had approved (by 527 votes to 124, with 29 abstentions) a €1 billion macro-financial loan to help Ukraine cover part of its external financing needs (that is, needs for foreign loans) in 2018-2019. However, the members of the European Parliament insisted that Parliament, the Council, and the Commission issue a joint statement on policy conditions that Ukraine must fulfil.

The statement, attached to the decision, makes it a precondition for granting the loan, that Ukraine must respect effective democratic mechanisms — including a multiparty parliamentary system — the rule of law, and human rights. Whatever that actually means, it suggests some rather unfortunate things about Ukraine, including disrespect for democratic mechanisms, a threat to a multiparty parliament, lawlessness, and abuse of human rights (all the sins of which they accuse Russia).

The statement also says that the use of the EU aid must

help reduce poverty and create jobs in Ukraine. It is unclear how this is related to making payments to foreign moneylenders, part of the reason Ukraine needs foreign loans.

Another condition of the loan is that there be progress in fighting corruption, including establishing an anti-corruption court in line with the Council of Europe’s Venice Commission recommendations. While Ukraine’s Supreme Council voted on June 7 to set up such a court, it did not pass legislation detailing the process.

Implementation of the preconditions will be monitored by the Commission and the European External Action Service. Ukraine’s failure to comply could lead to temporary suspension or cancellation of disbursements.

According to a spokesperson for the European Parliament, “The purpose of this aid is to make the country more economically stable, and there are firm conditions in place to ensure that the money will serve this goal. The country also has to take drastic measures to address corruption before the funds are delivered. I welcome with great satisfaction”

(Continued on Page 10.)

### Nord Stream 2 Creates Panic

The more that progress is made toward the building of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, a project designed to move Russian natural gas to Europe, the more American officials are looking for ways to block the project. Reports say that the Trump administration is getting closer to imposing sanctions on German and other European companies working on the pipeline.

The American argument, seconded by Britain, Ukraine, Poland, and the three Baltic states, is that Nord Stream 2 would compromise European energy security by increasing dependence on Russian gas. That, however, is a spurious argument, hiding the real motives of the various players.

The source of Ukraine’s opposition is obvious, made even clearer by the current struggle between Gazprom and Naftohaz: the movement of Russian liquified natural gas to Europe across Ukraine represents billions of dollars of annual income to Ukraine’s treasury. This money will be lost to Ukraine if LNG deliveries can bypass Ukraine.

The ultranationalist governments of Poland and the Baltic states, as well as Ukraine, are somewhat guided by hostility to Russia in their decision

making. In addition to maintaining anti-Russian Ukraine’s income, they are interested in retaining the ability to cut off the flow of Russian LNG, with the income generated for Russia, using Ukraine as the faucet.

America and Britain share the motives of the Baltic states, but are interested, as well, in selling their own fuel to Europe. The USA has shipped both LNG and coal across the ocean, and would like to increase this traffic.

Germany and the other countries supporting Nord Stream 2 see definite benefits. First, bypassing Ukraine reduces the cost of Russian LNG by eliminating Ukraine’s transit charges. Furthermore, pipelines bypassing Ukraine increase energy security, rather than threatening it, because the conflicts between Ukraine and Russia, which have affected supplies in the past, are removed as a consideration.

Britain and the USA make a point about the threat Nord Stream 2 poses to European solidarity. That argument is somewhat incongruous at a time when Britain is preparing to leave Europe, and the USA is unleashing a trade war against its allies, including

Europe.

Germany and some of the other countries involved have noted that Britain and the USA are seeking to maintain this solidarity at a very high cost to the countries which buy Russian gas, including Germany, France, Austria, Sweden the Netherlands and others.

Nord Stream 2 has secured nearly all the permits it needs from countries around the Baltic for the \$11 billion project to proceed. Consequently, the anti-Russian lobby in the USA, which has controlled Congress to force President Trump to impose sanctions on Russia and provide military equipment to the government of Ukraine, will be even more energetic in opposing the project which will benefit both Russia and many countries in Europe.

In the propaganda campaign meaningless anti-Russian verbiage which can not withstand close scrutiny, like this gem from the Centre for European Policy Analysis, will become more common:

“Promoted by one of the largest gas suppliers in the world — Russia’s state-owned Gazprom — this pipeline is a direct challenge to European law, the principle of fair play in the market, existing regulatory protections for consumers, and the bedrock political cohesion that has united U.S. and European interests for decades.”

### Babchenko: Fake News

Ukraine never misses a chance to blame Russia and will even manufacture such opportunities.

One such manufactured opportunity was the faked murder of journalist Arkadiy Babchenko. Presenting all sorts of evidence of a brutal murder, blood and all, Kyiv touted it as one more vicious deed by Russia, and the evil Putin. Most of the commercial press in the West indignantly swallowed it whole.

And then, oops, the victim wasn’t a victim after all, but a participant in an elaborate scam, leaving all the true believers with egg on their face. The truth, we are told, was revealed the next day, because Babchenko’s “widow”, who was not let in on the charade, was really grieving — who would have thought?

So now the official story is that the scam was actually a sting operation to foil the mur-

der, planned by the Russians, not only of Babchenko, but also of many others, by unmasking a Russian plan to physically eliminate critics of the current Russian government.

Arkadiy Babchenko was reportedly pleased to have been “rescued” from the supposed assassination attempt. Perhaps he should not be so cocky; if the Russian government is really that interested in killing him, might they not try again? Of course, if the whole drama was merely a game to establish some credibility for the “extraordinary professional efforts of the new Security Service, which is capable of passing the exams of any complexity”, then it is not the Russians about whom he should worry.

It does raise the question whether any other “Russian operation” was actually a fake news publicity scam.

## Sustaining Fund Donations

Federation of Russian Canadians – Alberta,  
 Calgary AB ..... \$500.00  
 Joan Dowell, Toronto ON  
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**WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THESE CONTRIBUTIONS AND THANK THE DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY. IF YOUR DONATION HAS NOT APPEARED ON THE PAGES OF THE "UCH", WATCH FOR IT IN FUTURE ISSUES.**

## Conditional Loan

(Continued from Page 9.)  
 tion last week's adoption of the law on the High Anti-corruption Court in Ukraine: it means that Ukrainians take their commitment seriously."

Corruption in Ukraine was given as a reason for suspension of IMF loan instalments. While President Petro Poroshenko tweeted, "Today we have completed the formation of anticorruption infrastructure," after the vote adopting the law, the IMF and the USA had other views.

Concerning the adoption of the law, IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said, "We (referring to President Poroshenko) agreed that it is now important for parliament to quickly approve the supplementary law submitted by the President to formally establish the court, as well as the necessary amendments to restore the requirement that the HACC will adjudicate all cases under its jurisdiction, including all appeals of relevant first instance court decisions,

as it was in the draft law approved in the first reading." The IMF also had other concerns: gas prices and the budget.

USA State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert said, "We welcome the International Monetary Fund Managing Director's statement.... These steps will ensure the court is able to help roll back the corruption that threatens Ukraine's national security, prosperity, and democratic development."

Again, the picture this draws of Ukraine is not very flattering, and it definitely appears that the process could take a while.

Unfortunately, the international definition of "national security, prosperity, and democratic development" seems to include a free market in land, allowing foreign purchase of an asset the oligarchs are loath to relinquish.

## Vancouver Banquet

(Continued from page 8.)

The banquet was far more informal than the concert had been, so much was interspersed in the midst of the programmed items, including recognition of the work of Sylvia Surette in producing a large image of a female dancer which was displayed on a wall, and the singing of "Mnohaya lita" to mark a birthday.

As the crowd filed out, hav-

ing been well fed and entertained, attending executive members gathered for a group photo to cap a wonderful evening with a wonderful souvenir.

A lot of effort went into the weekend of celebration, and all involved seemed to be glad that it was over. All involved also seemed to agree that it was worth it, which is what makes it all good.



## IVAN FRANKO MUSEUM

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## Who, What, When, Where

Toronto— Taras Shevchenko Museum, 1614 Bloor Street West, continues to exhibit Matchstick Embroidery by Marian Varkholik now extended to July 3. The Museum is open Monday Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m., noon to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, and by appointment on weekends and holidays. Admission is free; donations are appreciated

\* \* \*

Readers of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* are invited to submit items of interest to the progressive Ukrainian Canadian community for free listing in this column. The deadline for material is the 10th of the month preceding the month of publication.

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## For Information, see Page 11.

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## Happy Birthday, Friends!

The Edmonton AUUC Senior Citizens Club wishes a happy birthday to the celebrants of July and August.

Morindie Bagan  
 Clara Capowski  
 Anne Kawchuk  
 Mary Tropak  
 Marian Ursuliak

May you have good health, happiness and a daily sense of accomplishment as you go through life.

The Vancouver Seniors Club extends birthday greetings to July and August celebrants:

Mary Blonar  
 Mary Brown  
 Pat Moschenross  
 Dorothy Oreskovich

We wish you the best of health and happiness in the coming year!

The Welland Shevchenko Seniors extend a happy birthday wish to July and August celebrants:

Anne Hunka  
 Christine Whatmough  
 Brenda Zynomirski

May the coming year bring you all the best in health and happiness!

# Share Your Centennial Message!

This is a special year in the life of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians — this year the AUUC celebrates its 100th birthday! To mark this rare year, the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald* is providing a special opportunity to our readers to help you celebrate!

In the month of October, 2018, the “UCH” will print centennial birthday messages from our readers to the AUUC, to its members or to anyone else who is special to you!



The AUUC has a special place in the life of many of our readers, and in the lives of their families and friends. Many of our readers share their AUUC experiences when they get together.

If the AUUC has a special place in your life, share that knowledge with your friends with a centennial greeting in the October 2018, issue.

It's really easy to send a special message on this occasion. Just decide what size ad you want (see the various sizes on the facing page), and follow the instructions at right on this page.

There are many options: surface mail, fax, e-mail. Just let us know the size and clearly write the message you want to send.

Payment? Enclose a cheque or money order with your request — or let us send you an invoice. What could be easier?

Don't be left out — act now to make sure your message will be included in our October issue!

This is a rare opportunity. Unless you expect to live another hundred years, this is your one and only chance to mark an AUUC centenary. You'll kick yourself if you miss it!

## Ukrainian Canadian Herald AUUC Centennial Greetings

Remember your family and friends with a message! We invite you to express AUUC Centennial greetings through an ad in the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*, in the October, 2018, issue. One line (name and city) on two columns is only \$10.00. A five-line ad as shown is only \$35.00. See the diagram on page 10 for sizes. will be charged as multiples of.

**Deadlines:** September 10, 2018, for October, 2018.

**Send your request to:**

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e-mail: auuckobzar@mts.net

or: AUUC Centennial GREETINGS MESSAGE  
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Greeting in: English \_\_\_\_\_ Ukrainian \_\_\_\_\_

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**MESSAGE:**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cheque enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  
Invoice required \_\_\_\_\_ Office receipt # \_\_\_\_\_

**Why not renew your subscription now?**

## JOIN US!

Join the AUUC community! Each Branch has a unique schedule of events and activities. To discover what we have to offer, contact the AUUC in your area:

### AUUC NATIONAL OFFICE

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E-mail: mail@auuckobzar.net Web site: auuc.ca

### VANCOUVER BRANCH

Ukrainian Cultural Centre  
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Vancouver BC V6A 1V9  
Phone: (604) 254-3436 Fax: (604) 254-3436  
E-mail: auucvancouver@telus.net  
Website: www.auucvancouver.ca

### CALGARY BRANCH

Ukrainian Cultural Centre  
3316-28 Avenue SW  
Calgary AB T3E 0R8  
Phone: (403) 246-1231  
E-mail: Calgaryhopak@shaw.ca

### EDMONTON BRANCH

Ukrainian Centre  
11018-97 Street  
Edmonton AB T5H 2M9  
Phone: (780) 424-2037 Fax: (780) 424-2013  
E-mail: auucedm@telus.net

### REGINA BRANCH

Ukrainian Cultural Centre  
1809 Toronto Street  
Regina SK S4P 1M7  
Phone: (306) 522-1188 Web site: www.poltava.ca

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Ukrainian Labour Temple  
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Winnipeg MB R2W 2K4 ult-wpg.ca  
Phone: (204) 582-9269 Fax: 589-3404  
E-mail: auucwinnipeg@gmail.com

### OTTAWA BRANCH

c/o Robert Seychuk  
24 Attwood Crescent  
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Phone: (613) 228-0990

### TORONTO BRANCH

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Toronto ON M6P 1A7  
Phone: 416-588-1639 Fax: 416-588-9180  
E-mail: auuctorontobranch@gmail.com

### WELLAND BRANCH

Ukrainian Labour Temple  
342 Ontario Road  
Welland ON L3B 5C5  
Phone: (905) 732-5656

## Matchstick Art on Display in Museum

On Friday, May 18, an exhibition of matchstick embroidery by Ukrainian artist Marian Varkholik was officially opened with a reception at the Taras Shevchenko Museum in Toronto. In spite of other major events in the Ukrainian Canadian community on that night, the reception was well attended.

The official opening ceremony took place in the second-floor display gallery, where visitors could view many samples of the matchstick art which reproduces the traditional patterns of Ukrainian cross-stitch embroidery.

The ceremony was begun by Shevchenko Museum Director Lyudmyla Pogoryelova, who bade those present welcome. She spoke about the art and the artist before turning

the microphone over to the Marian Varkholik.

Mr. Varkholik spoke in Ukrainian, with an interpreter delivering his remarks in English. The artist noted that many of us see the Ukrainian embroidery patterns, and wear them, without realizing their significance. However, each pattern has a meaning which stretches back into ancient times. Part of his motivation in producing the pieces on display was to promote awareness of their traditional significance.

To this end, each exhibit was labelled with its name, revealing its underlying meaning. In addition, there was a panel explaining the significance associated with the various colours used in Ukrainian embroidery.

While the exhibition features works replicating embroidery patterns, Mr. Varkholik's efforts extend far beyond that theme. Also on display were two portraits, a grayscale picture of Ivan Franko and a sepia-toned face of a Cossack. Both are impressive for the shading achieved in the monochromatic images, reflecting painstaking artistic effort.

Also on display, on a table in the gallery, are several three-dimensional pieces of matchstick art, including a couple of miniature guitars, a model building, a vase, and a couple of samples of work in a bas relief style.

In his comments, Marian Varkholik promoted his book which, among other things, had step-by-step instructions teaching the art.

In an interesting sidelight, the artist said that Russian matches were best for his work. Ukrainian matches were not of high enough quality, and did not stand up to the repeated dyeing; Canadian matches were too big.

The audience had many questions. A big concern was the safety of so many matches (something in the area of half a million were present in the gallery). The artist replied that his pieces were no more dangerous than oil paintings on canvas. The danger was reduced by the repeated appli-

cation of dye to the match heads.

In response to another question, Mr. Varkholik indicated that a few other people were doing matchstick art, but no one else had attained the quality of his work.

Shortly after the formalities, several people observed a demonstration by the artist of how he works. Left behind on the table were four piles of matches of different colours, and a form used to hold the matches in place as the artist works.

The formal program ended with the performance of several numbers by a young woman who sang and played the bandura. The performance continued on the main floor of the museum, as the audience mingled.

Originally scheduled to close in mid-June, the exhibition has been extended to July 3.

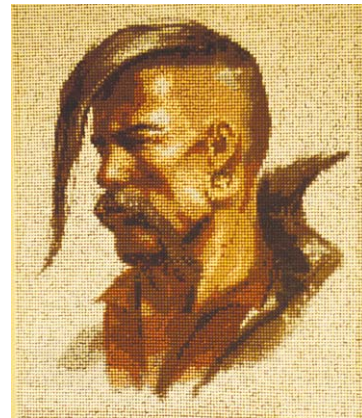
—Wilfred Szczesny



To open the event, a welcome was extended to participants by Museum Director Lyudmyla Pogoryelova, who also introduced Mariam Varkholik.



Artist Marian Varkholik was present not only to speak about his art, but also to demonstrate how it is done.



The monochromatic portraits are created by carefully placing matches much like the dots in a photo.



A formal ceremony in the display gallery officially opened the exhibition,

— Story photos: Jerry Dobrowolsky



Left behind in the gallery is a table with a number of three dimensional objects, as well as the author's book.



The reception at the Shevchenko Museum in Toronto on May 18 was well attended.

## IDF Kill Palestinian Nurse

It is a widely recognized, and generally respected, principle of modern warfare that unarmed, clearly identified, medical personnel should not be targeted. News reports on June 1 provided yet another reminder that the IDF (Israeli Defence Forces) do not always adhere to that standard, as information was given about the death of Palestinian nurse Razan Al-Najar as she tried to assist a wounded pro-

tester at the Gaza border. The nurse was the 119th Palestinian killed in the weekly demonstrations initiated on March 30.

Israel said militants had attacked its troops with gunfire and a grenade, apparently referring to a single suspect who "was identified crossing the security fence in the northern Gaza Strip and planting a grenade which exploded as he returned to the Strip".

Israel claimed that it had acted to disperse thousands of rioters at five locations. These "rioters", Israel failed to mention, were on the Gaza side of a formidable fence, up to 300 metres away from Israel. Their main weapons apparently, were flaming kites, causing "extensive damage to farmland".

At least 100 other Palestinians were wounded on that day, adding to the thousands of Palestinian casualties. There have been no Israeli casualties during the demonstrations.

Israeli military spokespersons claim that snipers target only people posing a threat, but many medical people have been shot. The Israeli explanation is that ricocheting bullets or rounds passing through legitimate targets sometimes hit bystanders.

While Israel's actions have drawn widespread international criticism, the USA vetoed a resolution criticising Israeli violence, and Canada abstained. It seems both the USA and Canada think that Israeli violence against and repression of, Palestinians should be blamed on Hamas, whom they call terrorists.

## Naqba 70

(Continued from Page 4.) Palestine and Israel. I hope this signals that Canada will continue to speak up against dehumanizing Palestinians and denying their basic human rights. But it will take much more than words to make change. The Israeli government remains steadfast in its brutal military control over Palestinians.

Each time Israel perpetrates outrageous war crimes against Palestinians, there is an outcry and pronouncements against these actions. And then the cycle repeats itself.

Rana Abdulla, a Palestinian knowledge-keeper in Winni-

peg and member of the National Committee for the Commemoration of Naqba – Canada, states: "Al Naqba is an opportunity to push for change and to affirm that no one can take away our dignity, our memory, or our continued resistance as Palestinians."

I hope Naqba 70 marks a turning point Canada's international relations on Israel-Palestine. I encourage everyone to take up the call for Palestinian solidarity, learn more about the issues, and take action as allies to Palestinians in their struggle for freedom and justice.

— Elizabeth Carlyle  
(Footnotes available on request.)

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